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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 212  
By Davis L

A RESOLUTION To honor Mr. Robert Lavern "R. L." Wheeler of  
Cumberland County.

WHEREAS, It is important that the members of this Legislative Body recognize those Tennesseans who, through their personal and professional endeavors, have enhanced the lives of countless others in their community; and

WHEREAS, Mr. R. L. Wheeler is one such esteemed individual who has served the Crab Orchard community and Cumberland County as a member and director of the Cumberland County Farm Bureau; and

WHEREAS, Born on January 4, 1916, Mr. Wheeler was raised in Crab Orchard and was educated in the Cumberland County public schools of Crab Orchard; at the young age of ten years old and due to circumstances beyond his control, R. L. took over the vast operation of the family farm in 1926, which consisted of 57 acres; and

WHEREAS, A charter policy holder of Tennessee Farmers Mutual, Mr. Wheeler became a stalwart member of Tennessee Farm Bureau in 1937, 64 years ago; in 1946, he was originally elected to serve on Cumberland County's Board of Directors and has served on that board for

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over 30 years. During his astute tenure on the Board, he has held numerous offices, including four terms as Vice President, as a member of the Executive Committee, the Building Committee, and as the Chairman of the Membership Committee; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Wheeler's farm now consists of 300 acres and an operation of 80 head of registered polled hereford cattle, 14 acres of corn silage, 80 acres of hay, one acre of potatoes, and two acres of sweet corn; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Wheeler exemplifies the spirit and allegiance to family and community that is characteristic of a true Tennessean; he has astutely served his community as the Chairman of the Board of the Cumberland Farmers Co-op, as a member of the Cumberland County Livestock Association Board, as the Chairman of the Board of the Soil Conservation Service, as a member of the Cumberland County's committee of the Farmers Home Administration, as a member of the ASCS Committee, the County Agricultural Committee, the Cumberland Medical Center Board of Directors, the Cumberland County School Board, and finally, as Chairman of the Cumberland County Road Committee; he is also actively involved with the Crab Orchard Community Club; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Wheeler has had the privilege of attending two American Farm Bureau Conventions, one in Los Angeles, California and another in Houston, Texas; he has attended almost all of the State Farm Bureau Conventions since he was first elected to the Cumberland County's Board of Directors in 1946, and has attended all of their district meetings while serving on the Board; and

WHEREAS, He has been honored by numerous organizations for his stalwart community service and his professional dedication, including such awards as the Exchange Club's Book of Golden Deeds Award, the Soil Conservation Service's Distinguished Service Award, and the Tennessee Farm Bureau's Outstanding Service Award, and recognition as the Chamber of Commerce's Feature Farmer; and

WHEREAS, A family man in every sense of the word, R. L. is fortunate to share the love and support of his devoted wife of 68 years, Ethel Pearl Gang Wheeler; they are the proud parents of four children, Pat Oldham, a retired home health registered nurse from Knoxville; Bob Wheeler, a farmer from Crab Orchard; Dan Wheeler, the Commissioner of the State Department of Agriculture who lives in Columbia; and Bill Wheeler, the Agency Manager of the Farm Bureau in Cumberland County from Crossville; and

WHEREAS, The Wheelers are the proud grandparents of ten grandchildren, and nineteen great-grandchildren, all of whom are very dear to R. L. and Ethel; and

WHEREAS, R. L. Wheeler evinces his devout faith in God through his active and steadfast membership in the Crab Orchard Christian Church; and

WHEREAS, Throughout his life, Mr. Wheeler has demonstrated a remarkable ability to motivate others to reach their fullest potential, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of his peers, fellow members of the community, and his many friends and family; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we honor Mr. R. L. Wheeler for his commitment to the future of agriculture, and for his dedicated service to his community, his family, and the State of Tennessee, extending our best wishes for much continued success and happiness in the years to come.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.